

Licensing, Certification and Bonding Requirements

Technical/Design Professions:

Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.) Chapter 74, Article 70, requires that any person who performs professional services or creative work, such as consultation, planning, designing or responsible supervision in the practice of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture or land surveying, be registered and licensed with the State of Kansas Board of Technical Professions.

Article 70 does not apply to one and two-family residential construction.

For the reasonable and practical administration of this Statute and Section 106 of the International Building Code, as adopted by the City of Wichita, nearly all commercial plan submittal documents are required to be sealed by architects, engineers, landscape architects and/or land surveyors who are licensed by the Kansas State Board of Technical Professions. A more detailed policy statement regarding submission of design documents for commercial building permit review is available from OCI and is included in Appendix B.

Contractors:

The City of Wichita has an extensive construction contractor testing, certification and licensing program. General building, electrical, elevator/escalator, mechanical/HVAC, plumbing, sewer/drain-laying, lawn irrigation and wrecking/demolition contractors performing work that requires a permit are required by the City to be licensed, and to carry and maintain minimum levels of insurance to further protect the consumer. Additionally, some contractors, such as sewer and drain laying contractors, are required to carry and maintain a minimum insurance bond.

Generally, contractor license tests are administered by nationally recognized contractor testing agencies, including Experior, ICBO and ICC, and are given frequently at national and local testing sites. A few types of contractor license tests are locally designed and administered. After initial licensing, contractors are required to annually renew their licenses with the City of Wichita.

In addition, the City requires that electrical, mechanical, plumbing and other similar tradesmen working for licensed electrical, mechanical, plumbing, lawn irrigation and sewer contractors are “certified” to perform installation work, and that these tradesmen also annually renew their certifications. These certification tests are also administered by nationally recognized certification testing agencies, including Experi, ICBO and ICC. As with contractor licensing, some types of certification tests are locally designed and administered.

Note: Model construction codes that are adopted by reference in the City Codes are available for purchase in the Office of Central Inspection (at City cost).

The City does have a provision to allow issuance of a “one-time” license to a general building contractor, without testing or payment of an annual license fee, if the contractor can show to the satisfaction of the City that he is otherwise qualified to construct the on-time project, and is appropriately insured.

Questions regarding contractor licensing may be directed to the OCI licensing staff at (316) 268-4413.